(c) and (d) The clearance from the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) has already been obtained for the project. After getting clearance from DDA, DUAC and ASI, the bidding process will be started and this process may take three months' time. The selected Concessionaire will have six months' time for the financial closure and thirty months' time thereafter for completion of the project.

**Concern over use of weapons in Space**

†*244. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned over use of weapons in space;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government for shielding against such weapons; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for carrying out deliberations in this regard with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government are concerned that the longstanding international consensus on peaceful uses of outer space might be undermined by deployment of weapons in outer space as well as testing and deployment of weapons against outer space objects.

(b) and (c) Government continue to monitor developments on this subject and are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment. Government continue to be engaged with international efforts to keep outer space free of weapons.

**Setting up of National Science and Social Science Foundation**

*245. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a view on the recommendation of National Knowledge Commission regarding setting up of a National Science and Social Science Foundation (NSSF);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.